

## **Organics Subcommittee Meeting Summary**

February 11, 2015, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

MassDEP, One Winter Street, Boston, MA

All presentations are posted on the MassDEP website at

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/swac-organics-subcommittee-.html>.

### **Discussion of Pre-Processing Needs for Source Separated Organics for Anaerobic Digestion, Jamie Doucett, MassDEP**

Jamie Doucett led a discussion focused on pre-processing needs for source separated organic materials for purposes of anaerobic digestion. This discussion focused on material streams that may require processing at some point before they can be fed into anaerobic digestion units. This could include food materials that need to be slurried or packaged food materials that need to be de-packaged. This could happen at a number of different stages, including at the generator, at an intermediate facility, or as a front end process at an anaerobic digestion facility.

MassDEP, working with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC), is interested in identifying what barriers exist in this area and suggestions for what the best models may be and how the state and/or others could help to break down these barriers. De-packaging is a barrier. In a small number of cases, where there is currently no option for managing packaged food materials subject to the waste ban, MassDEP has issued temporary waivers from the waste ban. However, these waivers will not continue once there is a market outlet for these packaged materials. Transportation and logistics are also barriers and answers depend on location, size of generator, etc.

Comments and suggestions included:

- Dry anaerobic digestion systems tend to have a much higher ability to manage contaminants than either wet AD or compost systems.
- In some cases, may make sense to look at grants or rebates to support installation of on-site processing equipment for larger food materials sources.
- There will be a need for different solutions depending on the type of business, type of material, and location.
- It may be more effective for MassDEP to conduct inspections at the point of generation to better identify options for managing these materials.

Please forward additional suggestions on this issue to Jamie Doucett at [james.doucett@state.ma.us](mailto:james.doucett@state.ma.us), John Fischer at [john.fischer@state.ma.us](mailto:john.fischer@state.ma.us), or Amy Barad at [abarad@masscec.com](mailto:abarad@masscec.com).

### **Updates on New RecyclingWorks Projects on Food Donation and Composting, Sean Pontani, RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts**

Sean Pontani of the RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts (RecyclingWorks) program gave a presentation on two new RecyclingWorks initiatives to help support implementation of the

commercial organics ban and increased diversion of food materials from disposal in Massachusetts. These include providing technical assistance to compost sites and developing recommended best management practices to support and inform food donation. Please see the presentation posted with this meeting summary for more information.

**Q:** Will this assistance be available to compost sites registered through the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) as well as MassDEP certified or permitted compost sites?

**A:** MassDEP will be reaching out to DAR to coordinate on this assistance and expects that it will be available to compost sites registered with MassDAR.

**Q:** Will this assistance be available to sites that are not taking in food materials – e.g., leaf and yard waste compost sites/

**A:** At this time the assistance will only be available to sites that are either currently taking food materials, or planning to in the near future. If this assistance model proves to be successful, MassDEP may consider broadening the eligibility to other compost sites as well.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Organics Subcommittee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM at MassDEP's Boston office.